

# FRASER MAGNOLIA

## *Magnolia fraseri* Walt.

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Mountain magnolia, Ear-leaf cucumber tree, Long-leaved cucumber tree.

FORM: Height 30-40 feet, with straight or inclining trunk 12-18 inches in diameter, often undivided for half of its length, or separating at the ground into a number of stout diverging stems with wide spreading or more or less contorted branches.

BARK: Rarely more than 1/3 inch thick, dark brown, smooth with small excrescences, broken into minute scales on old trees.

TWIGS Brittle; soon become bright red, lustrous, grayish the second year.

LEAVES: Obovate-spatulate, acute or bluntly pointed at apex, cordate and markedly auriculate at base, bright green, often red along the veins on the upper surface, 10-12 inches long, 6-7 inches wide, sometimes twice that size on young vigorous plants; they fall in autumn without change of color.

FLOWERS Borne on glabrous pedicels 1-1 1/2 inch long, pale yellow, sweet-scented, 8-10 inches across, sepals narrowly obovate, rounded at apex, 4-5 inches long, deciduous almost immediately after the opening of the bud, shorter than the obovate petals of which there are 6-9.

FRUIT: Oblong, glabrous, bright red when ripe, 4-6 inches long, 1 1/2-2 inches thick; mature carpels end in long subulate persistent tips; seeds obovoid, compressed 5/8 inch long.

WINTER BUDS: Terminal, glabrous, purple 1 1/2-2 inches long, 1/2 inch thick; axillary buds minute, obtuse.

WOOD: Light, soft, close-grained, not strong, light brown, cream-colored sapwood.

USES: Landscaping

HABITAT: Valleys of streams of Southern Appalachian Mountains.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: Leaves fall in autumn without change of color; mature carpels with long subulate persistent tips; leaves auriculate at base.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: Reported from northern part of the state.

### EXPLANATION OF PLATE

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| 1. A fruit                                 | 9. A seed, the base of the pulpy portion of the testa removed, showing the stony interior portion |
| 2. A flower, the calyx and corolla removed | 10. A seed, the fleshy part of the testa removed, showing the grooved stony portion               |
| 3. Vertical section of the same            | 11. An embryo   |
| 4. A stamen, posterior view                | 12. A winter bud  |
| 5. A stamen, anterior view                 |   |
| 6. Vertical section of a carpel            |   |
| 7. Vertical section of a seed              |   |
| 8. Cross section of a seed                 |   |



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